

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/699,308
Applicant : Tremitchell Wright et al
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Examiner : Amina S. Khan
Docket No. : US20030459

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Commissioner for Patents
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COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Sir:

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance issued concurrently with the Notice of Allowance on November 23, 2009. Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has not accurately described the features of Applicants' independent claims when characterizing Applicants' invention.

Specifically, independent claim 1 recites a method of cleaning a fabric load in an automatic laundering apparatus comprising the steps of: selecting a substantially non-reactive, non-aqueous, non-oleophilic, apolar working fluid, selecting at least one washing adjuvant; bringing said working fluid and adjuvant in contact with fabric in the automatic consumer-operated laundering apparatus; applying mechanical energy to provide relative movement within said fabric in the automatic laundering apparatus; and wherein the structure of the automatic laundering apparatus comprises components which contact the working fluid, wherein said components are formed from a conductive polymer to dissipate the static charge.

Independent claim 12 recites a method of cleaning a fabric load in an automatic laundry machine comprising the steps of: selecting a substantially non-aqueous working fluid; selecting at least one washing adjuvant; placing the fabric in a chamber adapted to confine said working fluid and said fabric; bringing said working fluid and adjuvant in contact with the fabric in the chamber; applying mechanical energy to provide relative movement of said fabric; extracting the working fluid from the chamber and re-circulating the working fluid to the chamber; and wherein the structure of the automatic laundering apparatus which contacts the working fluid is formed from conductive polymers.

Independent claim 24 recites a method of cleaning fabric in an automatic laundering apparatus comprising the steps of: selecting a substantially non-aqueous working fluid; selecting at least one washing adjuvant; sensing the initial moisture content of the fabric in a chamber of the laundering apparatus prior to adding working fluid to the chamber; optionally heating the fabric when the moisture content is above a predetermined quantity; bringing said working fluid and adjuvant into contact with the fabric when the moisture content of the fabric is below a predetermined quantity; and applying mechanical energy to provide relative movement within said fabric; and wherein the structure of the automatic laundering apparatus in contact with said working fluid is formed from a conductive polymer.

Independent claim 42 recites a method of cleaning fabric in an automatic laundering apparatus comprising the steps of: placing the fabric in a chamber adapted to confine said working fluid and said fabric; selecting a substantially non-aqueous working fluid; selecting at least one washing adjuvant; applying mechanical energy to provide relative movement of said fabric; and wherein the structure of the automatic laundering apparatus contacted by said working fluid is formed from a conductive polymer to dissipate static charge.

To avoid confusion and to clearly identify the different combinations of the features of Applicants' invention which has been allowed by the Examiner, Applicants respectfully suggest that Applicants' invention be defined as being allowable over the

prior art of record as the prior art of record does not disclose or suggest the various combinations of elements set forth separately in independent claims 1, 12, 24 and 42.

Respectfully submitted,

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